SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 20 JUNE 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on echolink. Echolink users can click on to ZS6FCS and they are invited to relay the bulletin on their local repeaters.

Comments from echolink users or suggestions will be appreciated. They can send and e-mail to: zs6fcs@telkomsa.net.

SILENT KEY

Raphael Schauder, ZS2SP, passed away on Monday, June 14th after a brief illness, aged 90 years. He was active in the hobby until just before his passing. Raphey was for many years a member of the League, the Port Elizabeth branch and subsequently the PE Amateur Radio Society. Condolences to his son, Colin (in the USA) and family, Anne, David and Daniel and other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

SA AMSAT TO HOLD AMSATCON2004 IN DURBAN

NEXT INTECNET WILL FOCUS ON THE ECHO SATELLITE

SARL TO LAUNCH ITS RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION PROGRAMME

HAMNET PREFERRED FREQUENCIES

PEARS VHF DIGITAL & MICROWAVE CONTEST

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items. Due to the length of this bulletin some items will have to stand over till next week's bulletin.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SA AMSAT TO HOLD AMSATCON2004 IN DURBAN

SA AMSAT is inviting papers for the AMSATCON2004 to be held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, on Saturday 24 July 2004. Proposals for papers in the form of a short Synopsis should reach the conference organisers by 23 June. Submissions should be mailed to saamsat@intekom.co.za.

Registration for the one day conference will be R50 for SA AMSAT and SARL members. The fee for students is R35 and for non-members R100. A full programme and registration forms will be available by 25 June.

NEXT INTECNET WILL FOCUS ON THE ECHO SATELLITE

The next Intecnet will be on Sunday 27 June at 20:00. The net will feature the Echo Satellite Project which is due for launch a few days after the net. The Guest speaker will be Rick Hambly (W2GPS), the project manager for Echo.

This will be a discussion with a difference as listeners will be able to download a powerpoint presentation prior to the broadcast.

Listen to Amateur Radio Mirror later today for more details or to next week's SARL news.

Clubs wishing to link their repeater should mail a request to armi@sarl.org.za giving details of the phone number to be connected, repeater frequency and area covered. Unfortunately prepaid and cell phones cannot be connected. The link can also be established via Echolink.

SARL TO LAUNCH ITS RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION PROGRAMME ON AUGUST 21

The South African Radio League will be launching its Radio Technology in Action programme on August 21 with a huge Hamfest at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Gauteng.

Making the announcement SARL President Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH said that the aim of the programme is:

. To showcase Amateur Radio as a broad spectrum activity; to kindle new interest, and for Shortwave Listeners and Electronic Hobbyists to focus on the fact that Amateur Radio can offer so much more.

. To create awareness of Amateur Radio as an educational past time for the young and an ideal activity for retired people

. To create awareness of the value of Amateur Radio as an educational tool and as a driver of developing a technology culture amongst the youth

. To create awareness of Amateur Radio in the class room as a great motivator for young people to choose a career in electronics and communication

. To grow the membership of the SARL

Graham said that after the Hamfest, the Radio Technology in Action programme will feature regular lectures on developments in Amateur Radio and allied technologies.

Expanding on the 21 August Hamfest he said that the lecture programme will be presented in three streams focusing on technology, amateur radio in action and amateur radio in education. The technology slot focuses on digital, satellite and weak signal communication. The aim of the Amateur radio in Action stream is to showcase DXing, Contesting and general operating activity. The third stream will be a workshop on taking amateur radio to the youth of South Africa.

Besides the lecture programme there will be displays, demonstrations, on the air activity and a flea market.

The SARL is calling for papers to be presented in the three slots. Send a brief synopsis to RTA@sarl.org.za before 27 June after which the full lecture programme will be announced.

"Listen weekly to SARLNews and Amateur Radio Mirror International for updates and interviews on this exciting programme", Graham said". Also visit the SARL web at www.sarl.org.za often."

(Note to bulletin readers: a short sound byte is available on the SARL web for inclusion in the bulletin.)

SARL HISTORY RESEARCHED

Tjerk Lammers, ZS6P, Awards Manager of the SARL, is researching the early history of the League and needs information on the founding of the League, the hibernation during the war years and its resurrection. If you have any literature or can provide leads, Tjerk would be pleased to hear from you. Contact him via email to zs6p@iafrica.com, or (012) 809-0006 at home or (012) 379-4251 at work.

HAMNET PREFERRED FREQUENCIES.

Francois Botha, ZS6BUU, said that it has again been brought to his attention that the preferred frequencies used by HAMNET is not advertised enough. Before this creates unpleasantness, HAMNET's preferred frequencies that are used on a regular basis are highlighted below:

During summer: Every afternoon at 18:00 CAT on 7,070 MHz for the Weather net except on Sundays, when the weather net follows immediately after the HAMNET bulletin at 17:00.

During winter: Every afternoon at 18:00 on either 3,695 or 3,390 or 3,685 MHz depending on the splatter from the AM music frequency of 3,700 MHz. Like in summer, the weather net follows immediately after the HAMNET bulletin on Sundays.

HAMNET has been asked to make this information available on a regular basis as we all tend to forget that HAMNET gather on the above frequencies on a

very regular basis.

Francois states quite categorically, that they do not have the right to ask anybody to leave a HAMNET frequency under normal conditions. They do however ask that a reasonable pause be left between transmissions, should there be a call for assistance.

QSL CARD PACKER

It is with regret to learn that Rae, ZS6RAE, has resigned as card packer for the QSL Bureau. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Rae for all the years that he voluntarily gave up time to pack our QSL cards for dispatch overseas.

The NARC therefore invites someone to fill this vacancy to pack our QSL cards for sending overseas. Please phone Vee at the office at 675-2393 should you be available, once a month, to pack our cards.

PEARS VHF DIGITAL & MICROWAVE CONTEST

The annual PEARS VHF Digital and Microwave contest will take place on the weekend of 2-4 July 2004. Rules for this contest can be found on the SARL Website and in the latest electronic edition of Radio ZS.

There are a couple of changes to the rules this year: the contest will take the form of independant sessions, from 18:00 Friday to 18:00 Saturday, and from 18:00 Saturday to 18:00 Sunday. Operators may work the same stations in each section of the contest. There is also a Rover category, and an EME category for those bold enough.

There has been considerable interest in VHF digital operation over the past year, and good participation levels are anticipated.

Last year saw only one entry in the Microwave section - hopefully there will be a few more this year.

For further information regarding the contest visit the PEARS website at www.qsl.net/zs2pe or email Barry Murrell, ZR2DX, at zr2dx@mweb.co.za.

TNT/MRK CELEBRATES ANIVERSARY ON 23 JUNE

On the 23rd June it will be the 40th birthday of Tak Noord-Transvaal now Magalies Radio Amateur Club. It has been decided that the celebration will take place coincident with the club's AGM in September because of the present cold weather. Looking back over the past 40 years we are thankful and proud of our members who served the branch/club so faithfully. May the future also be prosperous and may amateur radio reach great heights.

MEGA FLEAMARKET IN PRETORIA

The next Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria will be on 26 June at the Pretoria Amateur Raio Club, on the corner of University and Lynnwood Roads. The starting time is 09:30 and sellers are requested not to arrive before 08:30. As usual, there

will be lots to eat and drink. If you need more information or would like to book a table, please contact Almero ZR6RY on (012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reported that propagation conditions were again weak during the past week. The sunspot number started increasing on the 11th June and continued to do so up to preparation of this report. On Thursday it was 62,3 as against the very low of 31,6 of last week. Also, there were no significant corona openings on the sun's surface. As from the 17th conditions may become active as a result of expected inflow of coronal mass towards the earth.
Conditions in the north-south direction may be better than towards the east. Good openings may appear at unexpected times.

DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

23 June: Submit proposals for papers at AMSATCON2004; 26 June: Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria; 27 June: President's net; 27 June: Intechnet; 27 June: Submit proposals for papers at Radio Technology in Action; 30 June: Book for the steam train visit to the Koster Mampoer Festival on 5 September; 2-3 July: PEARS Digital and Microwave contest; 24 July: AMSATCON2004, Durban; 21 August: Radio Technology in Action and Hamfest at the NARC; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; Pay SARL membership, fees; Contribute to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership; Send articles for Radio ZS to radiozs@sarl.org.za; Visually impaired hams contact Dave, ZS1LDH, on 021-761-8386 or email Dave, care of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre on zs1ct@qsl.net regarding receiving Radio ZS on tape. Email SARL history to zs6p@iafrica.com.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX